

**MINUTES OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Room 414/416, State Capitol  
Thursday, January 22, 2004**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Dan Eastman, Co-Chair  
Rep. Don E. Bush, Co-Chair  
Sen. Dave Thomas  
Sen. Michael Waddoups  
Rep. Jeff Alexander  
Rep. Neil A. Hansen  
Rep. Ann W. Hardy  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. Todd E. Kiser  
Rep. Joseph G. Murray  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sen. Mike Dmitrich

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mark C. Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst  
Bethany Brady, Committee Secretary

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Chair Bush called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m.

Mark Bleazard, the Fiscal Analyst, presented a recommended schedule for upcoming meetings, a memo from the Co-chairs of the Executive Appropriations Committee, and revenue estimates for FY 2004 and FY 2005. Revenues are trending in a positive direction, but encouraged legislators not to assume that there is a surplus until the books are closed. The Analyst gave an overview of the issues and challenges the committee will face during the session. All work of the committee should be completed by February 12, 2004.

**Department of Transportation**

John Njord, Executive Director of the Department of Transportation, reported on a departmental evaluation that resulted in the elimination of 100+ FTEs and a savings of five million dollars. The elimination is a product of better efficiency and a hiring freeze, and there have been no job losses in the process. He presented the Department's concerns for the upcoming year and responded to questions from the committee.

**Department of Environmental Quality**

Dianne Nielson, Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, reported on the implementation of ongoing FY 2003 General Fund reductions and outlined the critical issues for

the DEQ: 1) \$250,000 General Funds Reduction in FY2004 budget, 2) Adequate funding for the Environmental Quality Restricted Account, 3) Hazardous and Radioactive Waste Legislative Task Force, and 4) Funding for opposition to high-level nuclear waste storage. She then responded to questions from the committee.

### **National Guard**

Col. Craig Morgan, from the Utah National Guard, reported that 50% of Utah's National Guard are not at home. He expressed concerns for increased expenditures required in the armory maintenance budgets. He also mentioned concerns for future maintenance of the Veterans' Nursing Home.

MOTION: Rep. Murray moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bush adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

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Rep. Don E. Bush, Co-Chair

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Sen. Dan Eastman, Co-Chair